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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,384	07/17/2003	Hiroaki Itoh	2887.0200-01	9627

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FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER  
LLP  
1300 I STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

TRAN, THUY VAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3652

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/620,384

Applicant(s)

ITO ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy v. Tran

Art Unit

3652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 28-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/795,357.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date Jul 17, 2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-77436 A (JP '436) in view of Folkenroth et al. 3,982,718.

JP '436 discloses a double-deck elevator comprising an upper cage (Cu) and a lower cage (Cd) vertically movable together in a hoistway, a catching plate 1 is capable of swinging about a horizontal axis between a first position in which a distal end thereof contacts a doorside inner wall of the hoistway and a second position in which the distal end retracts from the doorside inner wall, and the catching plate being in the second position. JP '436 does not disclose a cover for the space between the upper cage and the lower cage.

Folkenroth et al. '718 reference discloses an elevator system comprising a cover for covering a space between a platform and a base, wherein the cover is provided with a plurality of protrusions on the outer surfaces.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have employed a cover for the space between the upper cage and the lower cage of JP '436 double-deck elevator as disclosed by Folkenroth et al. reference in order to prevent foreign matters from entering the door driving unit.

Claims 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-77436 A (JP '436) in view of Folkenroth et al. 3,982,718 as applied to claim 28 above, and further in view of GB 2280662 A (submitted IDS).

The modified double-deck elevator of JP '436 lacks upper and lower airflow guiding members.

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GB '662 discloses a variety of upper and lower airflow guiding members in order to reduce turbulence to the cage.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have further employed upper and lower airflow guiding members for the double-deck elevator of JP' 436 as taught by GB '662 in order to eliminate vibration to the cages.

With regard to the noise absorbing members, it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attached a noise absorbing materials to one of the covers, upper airflow or lower airflow in order to insulate against noise from the outside as also suggested by GB '662 (page 7, lines 14-17).

### **Conclusion**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Each of the cited references separately discloses a double-deck elevator having a catch plate or a lifting system having a cover for covering a spaced between a platform and a base.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy v. Tran whose telephone number is 703-308-2558. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached on 703-308-3248. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

(T v T)

*Kathy Matecki*  
KATHY MATECKI  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600